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Activities of the Bar Associations of Charleston and Cabell County

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WEST VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION NOTES:

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING OF WEST VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION.—The next annual meeting of the ASSOCIATION will be held at Wheeling on July 28 and 29, 1920. The Hon. Charles A. Woods of Marion, S. C., United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, will be the guest of the ASSOCIATION and, at the invitation of the Executive Council, will deliver an address on the evening of the first day. The full program will be printed in the June number of the QUARTERLY.

PROMPT DISPOSAL OF CASES BY SUPREME COURTS OF WEST VIRGINIA AND OF COLORADO.—When officials of the Supreme Court of Appeals of this State were shown an associated press dispatch from Denver, Colorado, to the effect that the appellate court of last resort of that State had set a "precedent" in being fully up with its work, they announced that the West Virginia court of last resort practically had cleared its docket of all pending business at the close of the Fall Term of 1914 and has fully completed all its work promptly at the end of each term since that date. What the Colorado court has just succeeded in accomplishing has been the normal condition of the West Virginia court for more than five years past.

Considering the fact that there are seven supreme court judges in Colorado and only five in West Virginia and the further fact that the population of the latter State is nearly sixty per cent larger than the former, the record of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals is all the more remarkable.

As pointed out by Judge Poffenbarger of the West Virginia Supreme Court at a recent session of the West Virginia Bar Association, this is due to changes in procedure and a modification of the statutes giving the Court absolute control of its docket.

Prior to 1914, the court was from one to two years behind in its work.

ACTIVITIES OF THE BAR ASSOCIATIONS OF CHARLESTON AND OF CABELL COUNTY.—The Bar Association of the City of Charleston after a period of "suspended animation" on account of war work

has been reorganized by the election of Buckner Clay as president, W. E. R. Byrne and Arthur B. Koontz as vice-presidents, E. S. Bock as Secretary, Ben B. Brown as assistant secretary and Wm. B. Mathews as treasurer. Thirty-three new members have been elected and a noonday luncheon-meeting will be held on the last Saturday of each month. With a bar in Kanawha County numbering nearly two hundred attorneys the possibilities of the Charleston Association can hardly be estimated.

The March meeting of the Bar Association of the City of Charleston, held on Saturday, March 27, was, like the preceding meeting, well attended. The judges of all of the courts of record sitting in Kanawha County on that date were guests of honor. Judge Jeter C. Pritchard of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, spoke for the Federal judiciary and Judge George Poffenbarger of the Supreme Court of Appeals for the State judiciary.

At the April luncheon meeting, held on Saturday, April 24, Ronald F. Moist of the Charleston bar and lately of the American Expeditionary Forces, gave a talk on the Inns of Court, in which he reviewed the history and described the functions of and life at Lincoln's Inn, the Middle Temple, the Inner Temple, and Grey's Inn. Mr. Moist, who is now law clerk to Judge Williams of the Supreme Court of Appeals, and graduated at the College of Law, West Virginia University in 1917, was a student at the Inns of Court for several months during 1918. M. W. Lanham of Grafton, Howard N. Luckey of Charleston, and Julian L. Hagen of Huntington, all of whom had been law students at West Virginia University, were students at the Inns of Court at the same time. Another feature of the meeting was the consideration of the standards and requirements of several of the well-known law schools of the country. Benjamin B. Brown spoke for the Harvard Law School, F. R. Hurlbutt for Yale, George H. Williams for Virginia, Uriah Barnes for the College of Law of West Virginia University, and Leroy Allebach for the University of Michigan. Robert S. Spilman, a member of the State Board of Law Examiners, closed the proceedings by giving some information on the present methods of conducting the bar examination.

The Cabell County Bar Association also has held monthly luncheon-meetings for several months past, the general plan of which is to provide a speaker from the membership to discuss some legal topic of current interest. The suggestion has been made that